Mid-day meal in Bihar

1401. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that mid-day meal scheme has not been effectively implemented in various parts/districts of the country particularly in Bihar;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to revamp the working of the mid-day meal scheme in those districts of Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) As per information furnished by States and UTs, about 11.94 crore children studying at Primary stage in about 9.53 lakh schools and Education Guarantee Scheme/Alternative & Innovative Education Centres, are being covered during 2005-06, Bihar has also stated effective implementation of the Scheme.

(c) Efficient management of the Mid-Day Meal (MDM) Scheme hinges to a large extent on effective mobilization of community and active involvement of stakeholders. States have been exhorted to mobilize Mothers, being prime stakeholders in the Mid-Day Meal Programme, to supervise, in turns, the cooking and serving of the meal to the children in schools. This will heighten their awareness about the programme and the entitlements thereunder and will go a long way in effective implementation of the Scheme. Further, institutional monitoring has also been strengthened.

Continuing Education Programme in A.P.

1402. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that less grants were released to Andhra Pradesh under Continuing Education Programme under the National Literacy Mission during the last five years, year-wise;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the grants released for 2004-05 are even less than the grants released in 2003-04; and

(c) if so, the reasons for drastic reduction in releasing the grants to Andhra Pradesh under Continuing Education Programme under the National Literacy Mission?